

Message Text

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43

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 OIC-02

CU-02 AGR-05 DOTE-00 HEW-02 HUD-01 INT-05 FEA-01

AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-01

INR-07 L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 USIA-06 OES-03

SS-15 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01 /129 W
----- 020984

R 241710Z JAN 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5518

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV

SUBJ: HABITAT CONFERENCE PREP COM II - SUMMARY IMPRESSIONS

SUMMARY: HABITAT CONFERENCE PREP COM CONCLUDED TWO WEEKS DISCUSSIONS, HAVING ACHIEVED SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS ON TWO OF THREE PRINCIPAL CONFERENCE PAPER (NATIONAL ACTION AND DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES) AND AGREEMENT ON RULES OF PROCEDURE. PREP COM ALSO AGREED ON VANCOUVER CONFERENCE OFFICES - I.E., NUMBER OF VICE PRESIDENTS AND REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF KEY POSITIONS. THERE IS, HOWEVER, RATHER DEEP DIVISION ON INSTITUTIONAL QUESTION, ALMOST COMPLETE DISARRAY ON PROGRAMS OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND BIG QUESTION MARK HANGING OVER DISPOSITION OF FILMS AFTER CANCOUVER CONFERENCE ENDS. NEVERTHELESS, MOOD OF MEETING DEFINITELY UP-BEAT AND POLITICAL ISSUES CONSPICIOUS BY THEIR ABSENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. NATIONAL ACTION

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A. THE TANGIBLE ACCOMPLISHMENT AT THE MEETING WAS LIMITED TO GENERAL AGREEMENT ON A REVISED TOPICAL STRUCTURE FOR THE NATIONAL ACTION PAPER. THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT TIME TO FLESH OUT THE PAPER; THAT TASK HAS BEEN LEFT TO THE SECRETARIAT ALBEIT AFTER CONSIDERABLE DETAILED DISCUSSION BY THE COMMITTEE WHICH SUGGESTED A RATHER BROAD CONSENSUS ON THE KIND OF MATERIAL WHICH OUGHT TO GO INTO THE PAPER.

B. US DEL ALONG WITH A NUMBER OF OTHERS, FELT THAT PAPER WOULD BENEFIT FROM IDENTIFICATION OF A SELECTIVE LIST OF MORE CRITICAL ISSUES AROUND WHICH DISCUSSION AT VANCOUVER MIGHT REVOLVE. WE DREW UP SUCH A LIST, DISCUSSED IT INFORMALLY WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER DELS WHO LIKED IT, UNFORTUNATELY, THERE WAS NO OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT IT TO FULL COMMITTEE FOR DISCUSSION. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, GIVEN IT TO PENALOSA AS SUGGESTION TO DRAW ON IN REVISION OF PAPER.

2. DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

A. AS REPORTED USUN 223, SCENARIO THAT HAD BEEN WORKED OUT TO HANDLE UNRESOLVED ISSUES IN DRAFT DECLARATION, WAS FOR SYG TO CONSULT WITH GOVERNMENTS. IN DISCUSSION OF COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON DRAFT DECLARATION, PENALOSA BEGAN HEDGING ON HIS UNDERTAKING, POINTING OUT THAT REVISED DOCUMENT HAD TO BE FINISHED IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS. WE CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT THAT DRAFT SHOULD NOT HAVE BRACKETED LANGUAGE ON NIEO WHEN IT IS CIRCULATED TO ALL GOVTS (NOT JUST PREP COM MEMBERS) AND WILL THEREFORE HAVE TO FOLLOW UP QUICKLY WITH PENALOSA. WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO AVOID NIEO AT VANCOUVER, BUT BRACKETED LANGUAGE WOULD BE A CLEAR INVITATION FOR SOME TO WADE IN.

3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

A. AS INDICATED USUN 116, THERE WAS LITTLE SUPPORT FOR IDEAS SKETCHED OUT IN SECRETARIAT'S PAPER ON PROGRAMS FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. THE IDEAS WERE GENERAL, THEIR FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS UNIDENTIFIED AND THE INSTITUTIONAL IMPLICATIONS NOT THOUGHT THROUGH.

B. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH MCNEIL (HEAD OF CANADIAN DEL) AND SCHIFF, PENALOSA - DESPITE OUR URGING - SAID IT WAS SIMPLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO FORMULATE AN INTERNATIONAL ACTION PROGRAM IN SHORT TIME AVAILABLE BEFORE FINAL CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS ARE CIRCULATED TO GOVTS (END FEB/EARLY MARCH). HE STATED HE WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE SUGGESTIONS FROM US, CANADA AND OTHERS WHICH HE WOULD DISTRIBUTE AS HIS OWN ADDENDUM TO DOCUMENT, BUT HE SIMPLY DID NOT HAVE STAFF TO DO THE JOB. THIS LEAVES OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO HAVE MAJOR INFLUENCE ON SHAPING PROGRAM - PROVIDING WE CANPULL TOGETHER OUR OWN THOUGHTS QUICKLY

ENOUGH.

C. ON INSTITUTIONAL QUESTION, MCNEIL, PENALOSA AND WE AGREED IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE TO HAVE CONSENSUS BUILT BEFORE VANCOUVER.

D. PENALOSA, WHILE NEUTRAL IN PUBLIC ON INSTITUTIONAL OPTIONS, IS NOT IN PRIVATE. HE IS RATHER FRERVENTLY ATTACHED TO UNEP/ FOUNDATION ALTERNATIVE PROVIDED FOUNDATION IS NOT LOCATED IN NAIROBI. HE HAS MENTIONED TEHRAN, MEXICO CITY AND CARACAS AS POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE SITES. HE IS CONVINCED THAT THE CENTER FOR HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING IS MORIBUND AND THAT ANY INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT CENTERED ON IT IS DOOMED TO FAIL. THE ONE WAY OF SHEDDING CENTER PERSONNEL IS TO LOCATE THENEW ARRANGEMENT OUTSIDE NEW YORK OR GENEVA. TWO OTHER KEY ELEMENTS IN HIS MIND ARE NECESSITY FOR A HIGH LEVEL GROUP TO CONTINUE GIVING GUIDANCE TO ANY FUTURE PROGRAM IN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS FIELD AND INCREASED STATURE AND AUTONOMY FOR DIRECTOR THAT FOUNDATION-BASED ARRANGEMENT WOULD HAVE AS OPPOSED TO CENTER-BASED ARRANGEMENT. PENALOSA TOLD US HE INTENDS CONSULTING UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL WHEN IT MEETS IN NAIROBI END OF MARCH ON THE INSTITUTIONAL QUESTION. THAT MEETING WILL ALSO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS ON AUDIO-VISUAL PROGRAM.

4. AUDIO-VISUAL PROGRAM

A. THERE IS INTENSE INTEREST ON PART OF PREP COM IN THIS FEATURE OF THE VANCOUVER PROGRAM. AND THERE IS NOW REAL DISMAY OVER THE LACK OF PLANS AND INFORMATION AS TO HOW THE FILMS WILL BE BOTH STORED AND DISTRIBUTED AFTER THE CONFERENCE. EVERYONE WANTS THE FILMS AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE DISSEMINATION AFTER THE CONFERENCE, BUT JUST NOW NOBODY KNOWS WHO WILL TAKE ON THE RESPONSIBILITY AND WHERE THE FUNDS WILL COME FROM.
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B. PENALOSA PULLED REAL BLOOPER IN HANDLING THIS AND CREATED A GREAT DEAL OF RESENTMENT AND SUSPICION. POLISH DEL HAD SUGGESTED THAT CENTER BE AUTHORIZED TO TAKE ON INTERIM RESPONSIBILITY FOR FILMS AND ASKED WHETHER UN SECRETARIAT COULD REALLOCATE FUNDS TO PERMIT THIS. WHEREUPON PENALOSA PRODUCED UNEP SYG PROGRESS REPORT TO UNEP, WHICH HE CLAIMED HE HAD ONLY JUST RECEIVED, AND WHICH CONTAINED PROPOSAL FOR UNEP TO ALLOCATE ANOTHER \$400-500,000 FOR POST-CONFERENCE FILM DISTRIBUTION.

C. AS OPPOSED TO THE UNEP PROPOSAL, ESA REPRESENTATIVE TOLD PREP COM HIS ORGANIZATION CURRENTLY HAS NO MONEY TO TAKE ON AUDIO-VISUAL PROGRAM AFTER VANCOUVER. HE SAID ESA, IF DIRECTED, WOULD BE WILLING TO SEEK SPECIAL ALLOCATION, BUT HE COULD MAKE NO PROMISES OF RESULTS.

D. CANADIANS LATER SUGGESTED THAT RESPONSIBILITY MIGHT BE TURNED OVER TO A UNIVERSITY OR OTHER PRIVATE GROUP AND THAT GOC MIGHT BE WILLING TO PUT UP SOME FUNDS FOR THIS ON BASIS OF SOME KIND OF JOINT ARRANGEMENT WITH UN.

E. WE HAD RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT WITH SECRETARIAT TO MAKE ALL FACTS AND COST ESTIMATES AVAILABLE. HOWEVER, THERE IS INSUFFICIENT TIME TO ORGANIZE SUCH A MEETING - HENCE, THE AGREEMENT TO DISCUSS THE WHOLE QUESTION FURTHER IN NAIROBI.

5. RULES AND OFFICERS

A. CONFERENCE RULES APPROVED WITH RELATIVELY LITTLE TROUBLE. CONFERENCE OPTED FOR HAVING LARGE NUMBER OF VICE CHAIRMEN (30) AND DIVIDED THEM AMONG GEOGRAPHIC GROUPS. RESULT OF DECISION ON VICE CHAIRMEN MEANS THAT REALLY IMPORTANT JOBS IN VANCOUVER WILL BE CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN, CONFERENCE RAPPOREUR, AND CHAIRMEN OF THREE COMMITTEES. CANADIAN URBAN AFFAIRS MINISTER DANSON SCHEDULED BE CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN. RAPPOREUR'S JOB WILL GO TO EASTERN EUROPE, COMMITTEE I TO AFRICA, COMMITTEE II TO ASIA AND COMMITTEE III TO LATIN AMERICA.

B. ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT WILL BE COMMITTEE I WHICH WILL CONSIDER DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AFRICANS APPEAR IN AGREEMENT ON SUPPORTING KENYAN GEORGE MUHOHO FOR THAT JOB. HE HAS BEEN THE ABLE AND POPULAR CHAIRMAN OF THE PREP COM. FROM OUR VIEWPOINT, HE WOULD BE EXCELLENT CHOICE TO HEAD THIS POTENTIALLY TROUBLESOME COMMITTEE. MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HABITAT CONFERENCE, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USUNN00263
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760028-0658
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760123/aaaaaupl.tel
Line Count: 206
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HABITAT CONFERENCE PREP COM II - SUMMARY IMPRESSIONS SUMMARY: HABITAT CONFERENCE PREP COM CONCLUDED
TWO WEEKS
TAGS: SENV
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006